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# Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
---------- 062960
R 252208Z SEP 73
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9609
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3402

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: EXEMPT
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, UN, CI
SUBJ: SANTIAGO AS SITE FOR LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. AT REQUEST OF ACTING CHILEAN PERMREP BAZAN, AMB. STEVENSON MET PRIVATELY WITH BAZAN 24 SEPT. TO DISCUSS SITE FOR LOS CONFERENCE. BAZAN SAID HE HAD LEARNED THAT SEABEDS COMITE CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE (SRI LANKA) AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED ARE CONSIDERING TAKING ACTION TO CHANGE THE 1972 GA DECISION TO ACCEPT CHILE'S INVITATION TO HOLD THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE IN SANTIAGO (IN APRIL/MAY 1974). IF NON-ALIGNED AND SOVIET BLOC, AS SEEMS CERTAIN, SO MOVE, BAZAN THINKS IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE GOC TO RETAIN THE CONFERENCE NOTWITHSTANDING LATIN AMERICAN SOLIDARITY IF CHILE DECIDES TO STAND FIRM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, BAZAN SAID, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR GOC PROMPTLY (HE UNDERSCORED PROMPTLY) TO WITHDRAW SANTIAGO THAN TO PERSIST AND LOSE. STEVENSON NOTED CONTINUING IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO CONFERENCE TAKING PLACE WITHOUT DELAY BUT, HE STRESSED, DECISION CONCERNING SANTIAGO MUST BE FOR GOC TO MAKE. HE HOPED AMB. BAZAN COULD LET US KNOW AS SOON AS A DECISION IS REACHED.

2. COMMENT: BAZAN'S ANALYSIS IS CORRECT; CHILE CANNOT SUCCESSFULLY MAINTAIN SANTIAGO IF, AS IS NOT CONFIRMED CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT SEEMS LIKELY IN CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, EE'S, AF'S AND SOME ASIANS DECIDE NOT TO SUPPORT GOC. WILL BE RECALLED THAT, LONG BEFORE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT, A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF SMALLER LDC'S, INCLUDING SUCH FRIENDS AS

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THAILAND, HAD BEEN UNHAPPY WITH SANTIAGO SITE BECAUSE
THEY DO NOT MAINTAIN EMBASSIES THERE. THE OPPOSITION,
TOO, COULD BECOME VOCAL. FROM LOS VIEWPOINTS, WE ARE
VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT USSR COULD USE A CONTENTIOUS
SITE ISSUE AS BASIS FOR DELAYING THE CONFERENCE IF MOSCOW
IN FACT DECIDES THAT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FOOT-
DRAGGING IS IN SOVIET INTEREST.

3. POSTSCRIPT: AT 25 SEPT, MEETING OF REGIONAL GROUP
REPRESENTATIVES PLUS US ON LOS ISSUES, AMERASINGHE COMMENTED,
IN PASSING, THAT HE DID NOT THINK THE CONFERENCE COULD MEET
IN SANTIAGO. HE DID NOT ELABORATE AND THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION
OF THIS POINT (IN WHAT WAS, ESSENTIALLY, AN OUTLINE
BY AMERASINGHE OF QUESTIONS ON WHICH THE REGIONAL GROUPS
SHOULD FOCUS BEFORE THE SEABEDS ITEM COMES BEFORE THE
FIRST COMMITTEE ON 15 OCT.). HE MENTIONED VIENNA AND GENEVA
AS ALTERNATIVES. END
SCALI

CONFIDENTIAL

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